

**AMBIGUOUS TERMINOLOGY FOR CASEFINDING:**

In most cases, the patient's record clearly presents the diagnosis by use of specific terms which are synonymous with cancer. However, there will be times when a physician is not certain or the documented language is not definitive. Ambiguous terminology may originate from any source document, such as pathology report, radiology report or a clinical report. *The entire medical record should be reviewed before basing reportability on one of these terms.* The terms listed below are reportable.

Ambiguous terms that are reportable (used to determine reportability)

- Apparent(ly)
- Appears
- Comparable with
- Compatible with
- Consistent with
- Favor(s)
- Malignant appearing
- Most likely
- Neoplasm (beginning with 2004 diagnosis and only for C700-C729, C751-C753)
- Presumed
- Probable
- Suspect(ed)
- Suspicious (for)
- Tumor (beginning with 2004 diagnosis and only for C700-C729, C751-C753)
- Typical (of)

***Note:*** *This list should be used only for determining case reportability. Do not use this list to determine the appropriate histology or stage.*

**Example:**

Pathology report states: "Prostate biopsy with markedly abnormal cells typical of adenocarcinoma."  
**Accession the case because "typical (of)" is an ambiguous term that is reportable.**

***EXCEPTION:*** *If cytology is reported as "suspicious for neoplasm" do not interpret this as a diagnosis of cancer. Report the case only if a positive biopsy or a physician's clinical impression of cancer supports the cytology findings or if cancer directed therapy is administered.*

***Note:*** *When phrases such as strongly suspicious or highly favors are used, disregard the modifying term and refer to the guidelines above regarding the primary term. A patient stated to have "known" cancer should be reported to the TCR.*

***Note:*** *If the word or an equivalent term does not appear on the reportable list and is not a form of a word on the reportable list, the term is not diagnostic of cancer. Do not accession the case. If forms of the word are used such as: "Favored" rather than "Favor(s)";*